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**Remarks**

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the present invention.

**Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103**

Claims 1-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beming et al (WO 99/16264) in view of Stacey et al (USP 6,434,154).

Claim 1 now more clearly sets out that the present invention is concerned with one type of service only, that of speech data, and that the same data rate is required for the purposes of each user.

Both Beming et al and Stacey et al are concerned with different types of services having correspondingly different requirements. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that neither reference teaches the present invention. Beming et al is concerned with one user only and with services having different data rates. Stacey et al suggests that different data rates may be accommodated by using mini-slots and mini-cells. An ordinarily skilled person would not look to either of these references when faced with a requirement which involved transmission of only one service type at one data rate, but involving at least two users.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that for this reason and for those reasons set forth in the previous response, the invention as claimed in claim 1 is patentable over any combination of Beming et al and Stacey et al. The other claims are directly or indirectly dependent from allowable claim 1 and for this reason at least are also allowable.

**Conclusion**

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's rejections have been overcome and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

If, however, the Examiner still believes that there are unresolved issues, he is invited to call applicant's attorney so that arrangements can be made to discuss and resolve any such issues.

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In the event that an extension of time is required for this amendment to be considered timely, and a petition therefore does not otherwise accompany this amendment, any necessary extension of time is hereby petitioned for and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the appropriate cost of such petition to the Lucent Technologies Deposit Account No. 12-2325.

Respectfully,

By 

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